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## European Union

During April 2004, European Union (EU) chick placements showed a provisional increase of 8% from the same month in 2003. From the January – April, 2004 provisional EU chick placements showed an increase of 7% when compared to the same period in 2003. Production of consumption eggs in the EU-15 peaked in 2001 at 6.29 million tons (mio t), stagnated the two following years, and now is expected to improve in 2004 to 6.4 mio t. The 2003 avian influenza crisis in the Netherlands may have contributed to some of the stagnated production in 2003.

Europe is one of the leading world regions that dominate trade in shell eggs, liquid eggs and dried egg products. Europe accounted for, in broad terms, two thirds of both the export and import trade in 2002. The Netherlands in 2002 was the leading supplier of liquid eggs, shipping nearly 55,000 metric tons or approximately one third of the world total and the EU dominated the world in 2002 in the trading of dried whole yolks. In 1990, the percentage of eggs in the EU sold to processors was 18% compared to 24% presently. In the intermediate term, it is expected that production growth will be constrained in the EU-15 to 5.26 mio t in 2011 due to higher production costs and lower margins. EU-15 production for 2004 is estimated at 5.28 mio t.

In May, 2004 the number of states in the EU increased from 15 to 25 with the new member states (NMS) located in Eastern and Southern Europe. Some of the NMS have a considerable production surplus over domestic consumption. Even though it is hard to get realistic data, some anticipate the EU-15 hen flock will grow 33% with the addition of the NMS. Production volume, though, is estimated to increase only 20% due to an estimated lower laying rate in the NMS because of poor feed quality, genetics, etc.

Production in the NMS during the intermediate term is forecast to increase due to more favorable marketing conditions from 1.06 to 1.14 mio t. One such favorable condition is when Germany implements the new Order for Keeping Laying Hens in 2007. The regulation implements a gradual elimination of conventional and enriched cages. As cages are gradually eliminated in Germany, some expect production to shift to the NMS due to less stringent environmental regulations with some product exported back to Germany and other EU-15 countries.

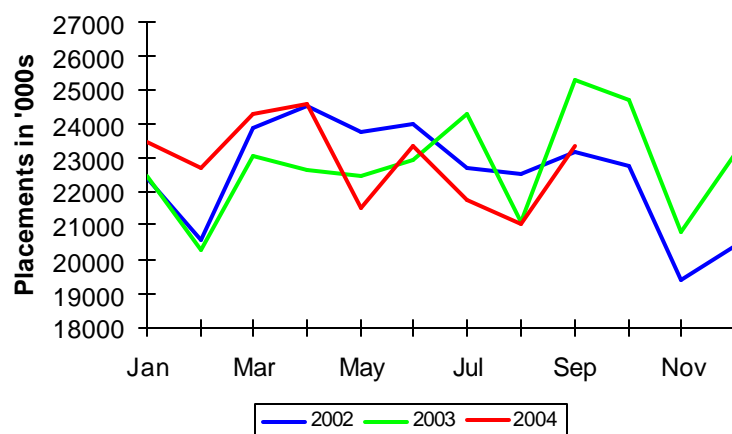
Overall, production in the EU-25 is expected to increase from 6.34 mio t in 2004 to 6.40 mio t in 2011. Egg consumption would increase in the NMS due to higher incomes and changing diets from .95 mio t in 2004 to 1.05 mio t in 2011 while overall EU-25 consumption would increase from 6.14 to 6.28 mio t due to higher incomes and changes in dietary patterns. By 2010, the percentage of eggs sold to processors is projected to increase to 30%. Imports would remain relatively constant in the EU-25 through 2011 while exports drop from .24 mio t in 2004 to .15 mio t in 2011.

Sources: European Commission, International Egg Commission and various other sources.

## INTERNATIONAL CHICK PLACEMENTS JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2004 PERCENTAGE CHANGES 2004/03

Country	2003/02 %	2004/03.....					
		Jan/Jun 2004 %	May %	Jun %	Jul %	Aug %	Sep %
<b>European Union</b>	+1	+5p	-4p	+2p	-11p	.p	-8p
Austria	+17	+1	+4	+11	-22	-52	+28
Belgium	+10	-5	-22	-42	-32		
Denmark	-3	+2	+1	-22	+12	+14	-7
Finland	+8	+8	-13	-4	-27	-2	+16
France (a)	+4	.	-9	-14	-16		
Germany	+14	-13	-18	-7	-25	-15	-26
Ireland	-28	+70	+24	+36	+105	+127	
Italy	-3	-7	-5	+8	+2	+8	+7
Netherlands	-23	+110p	+157p	+286p	-11p	+11p	-25p
Portugal	+11	+16	-1	+44	+17	-25	
Spain	+3	+6	-12	-2			
Sweden	+8	+23	-11	+48	-10		
United Kingdom	+3	+11	-3	-7	-4	+10	-15
<b>Other European Countries</b>							
Hungary (a)	.	+3	-33	-73	+89	+414	-27
Norway	+10	+15	+16	+3	-31	+5	-15
Switzerland	-9	-11	-8	-5	+12	+40	+17

Chick Placements in EU 14



Source: International Egg Commission

**Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade****U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending November 27, 2004		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Liquid	509	358	17,364	15,869
Frozen	0	0	36	96
Dried	38	40	773	551
Total	547	398	18,173	16,516

**U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending November 27, 2004		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Liquid	34	90	7,371	5,073
Frozen	44	57	1,516	3,516
Dried	38	0	2,033	1,179
Total	116	147	10,920	9,768

**Inspected Shell Eggs****U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending November 27, 2004		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Jumbo	0	50	392	504
Extra Large	1,100	1,970	163,887	33,818
Large	2,300	2,848	333,461	129,883
Medium	1,026	3,200	115,348	60,706
Ungraded	6,037	4,500	319,481	180,062
Misc	0	0	16,790	14,222
Total	10,463	12,568	949,359	419,195

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

**LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION** W/E 27-Nov-04  
(PRELIMINARY)**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY**

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	796	747	1,543
Last Week	1,380	1,501	2,881
Same week yr ago	668	897	1,565
To-date/2004	63,965	63,717	127,682
To-date/2003	66,680	65,946	132,626

**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA**

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	288	0	288
Last Week	249	8	257
Same week yr ago	0	0	-
To-date/2004	11,356	137	11,493
To-date/2003	10,093	137	10,230

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

**TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA**

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	1,084	747	1,831
Last Week	1,629	1,509	3,138
Same week yr ago	668	897	1,565
To-date/2004	75,321	63,854	139,175
To-date/2003	76,773	66,083	142,856

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

**CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN**

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Dec 03, 2004				
<u>CHICKEN</u>				
	PRICES		VOLUME	
	(Cents per Pound)			

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

**CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED**

	PRICES	VOLUME
	(Cents per Pound)	

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	18.00-20.00	13.00-19.00	202,400	-
WTD AVERAGE	19.00	17.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	13.75-16.00	11.00-16.00	2,554,400	1,085,600
WTD AVERAGE	14.93	13.27		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

\* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

			Dec 03, 2004
<u>CHICKEN</u>			
	PRICES	VOLUME	
	(Cents per Pound)		

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

**CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED**

	PRICES		VOLUME	
	(Cents per Pound)			

FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	17.00-18.50	18.75-21.00	672,000	312,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.25	20.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	16.00-22.00	18.00-20.00	2,237,000	1,677,000
WTD AVERAGE	20.19	18.86		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	17.50	200,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		17.50		

\* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

**NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 03 DECEMBER 2004.**

The market tone on fresh tom breast meat and destrapped tenderloins was steady to instances fully steady, balance of fresh white meat steady to fully steady. The overall fresh white meat market strength continued to be unseasonally strong for the time of year. Demand moderate. Offerings ranged from mostly adequate on fresh tom breast meat to short on fresh scapula and breast trim. Trading slow to moderate and centered on fresh tom breast meat for domestic shipments and on frozen mechanically separated turkey for export. Fresh scapula traded at 121 cents delivered domestic.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2004****EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/ R	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS			37.75	160	37.75	160
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS						
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		F	20.00	144		
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	18.00-21.00		19.30	276	19.28	368
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	85.00		85.00	80	82.62	404

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2004****EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/ R	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)		
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	37.00-38.00		37.75	160		
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS						
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		F	20.00	144		
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		W	19.00	52		
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	80.00-85.50		81.48	284		

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2004****EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/ R	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)		
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	37.00	52		
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS						
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		F	20.00	144		
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	19.00		19.00	52		
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	86.00		86.00	40		

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2004****EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/ R	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)		
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	37.00	52		
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS						
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		F	20.00	144		
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	19.50		19.50	40		
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN						

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004****EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/ R	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)		
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	37.00	52		
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS						
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		F	20.00	144		
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/						
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN						

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.